

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

EUR-25 NEA-11 DRC-01 /152 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2697

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 493

DEPT PASS UNINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, IZ, IR

SUBJ: IRAQ REQUEST FOR SC MEETING

1. IN TALKS FEB 13 WITH ARAB DELS, WE FOUND NO DISPOSITION TO SUPPORT IRAQ IN STRONG SC ACTION AGAINST IRAN. DURING LUNCHEON DISCUSSION, EGYPTIAN, LEBANESE, UAE AND JORDANIAN MISOFFS SUGGESTED BEST WAY TO HANDLE DISPUTE WAS TO LET TWO SIDES EXCHANGE CHARGES AT SC MEETING AND BE DONE WITH IT. CONSENSUS WAS STRONGLY AGAINST RESOLUTIONS, OBSERVER MISSIONS OR ANY OTHER SC ACTION.

2. WE UNDERSTAND FRENCH TOO ARE ANXIOUS TO AVOID SITUATION IN WHICH THEY WOULD HAVE TO TAKE SIDES, AND AS SC PRES ARE CONSELING AGAINST MEASURES THAT COULD LEAD TO CONFRONTATION. BRITISH ARE SIMILARLY INCLINED.

3. MEANWHILE, IRAQI DEL IS APPARENTLY PREPARING TO TABLE CONDEMNATORY RES AGAINST IRAN. ACCORDING TO UKUN, IRAQIS
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ARE THINKING OF INCLUDING REQUEST FOR OBSERVER MISSION, POSSIBLY

COMPRISING NON-ALIGNED SC MEMBERS, TO INVESTIGATE SITUATION
ON THE SPOT.

4. IRANIAN AMB HOVEYDA HAS BEEN MAKING ROUNDS OF ALL SC MEMBERS
TO STRESS IMPORTANCE IRAN ATTACHES TO AVOIDING SC MEETING. TO
BRITISH AT LEAST, HOVEYDA NEVERTHELESS SEEMED TO ACKNOWLEDGE
INEVITABILITY OF MEETING. HE SAID IRAN WOULD ACCEPT NEITHER A
RES NOR AN OBSERVER MISSION. MOST HE COULD AGREE TO WAS STATEMENT
BY SC PRES URGING PARTIES TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TOWARD
SETTLEMENT. (NOTE: THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM AGREED FORMULA
IN 1971 PERSIAN GULF ISLANDS DISPUTE, WHICH ENVISAGED THIRD PARTY
ASSISTANCE).

5. COMMENT: IRAQ'S LACK OF SUPPORT AMONG MORE MODERATE ARABS
MAY GIVE TI SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT TRYING TO PUSH THROUGH COUNCIL
CONDEMNATORY RES OR OTHER MEASURE THAT IRAN STRONGLY OPPOSES.
NON-ALIGNED SC MEMBERS WILL BE INFLUENCED BY VIEWS OF MODERATE
ARABS, WHILE ANOTHER FACTOR IN IRAN'S FAVOR IS THAT IT IS INFLU-
ENTIAL MEMBER OF GROUP OF 77. NEVERTHELESS, STATEMENT SUCH AS IRAN
WISHES, SIMPLY CALLING ON TWO PARTIES TO CONTINUE THEIR BILATERAL
CONTACTS, WOULD BE DIFFICULT PILL FOR IRAQ TO SWALLOW.
SCALI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED BAGHDAD.

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